IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing ~~substances bearing carbodiimide~~ a substance including a carbodiimide group from ~~isocyanates~~ an isocyanate, comprising ~~using~~ employing at least one of water, ~~and/or~~ a water-containing substance ~~or~~ and a water-releasing ~~substances~~substance~~, and/or amines and/or ureas~~ as ~~catalysts~~ a catalyst.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing ~~substances bearing carbodiimide~~ a substance including a carbodiimide group from ~~isocyanates~~ a isocyanate, comprising~~obtained by~~ :

reacting a mixture of:

A) ___at least one starting compound having at least one isocyanate group~~,~~;

B) ___at least one catalyst comprising at least one of water, a water-containing substance and a water-releasing substance in an amount of from 0.01 to 30% by weight, based on the sum of A) and B)~~, selected from~~

~~1. water,~~

~~2. water-containing and/or water-releasing substances,~~

~~3. primary and/or secondary amines,~~

~~4. ureas having the structure $R^1$-NH-CO-N$R^3R^3$, where $R^1$, $R^2$ and $R^3$ are each identical or different radicals having from 1 to 15 carbon atoms or H,~~; and

C) ___optionally one or more cocatalysts ~~from the group of~~ comprising a metal-containing ~~substances~~ substance in an amount of from 0.00001 to 1% by weight, based on the sum of A) and B);

wherein~~,~~ reacting the mixture comprises ~~by~~ holding the mixture of A), B) and~~, where present,~~ optionally C) at a temperature of from 120~~t~~ to 300°C and ~~at pressures~~ a pressure of between 1 and 25 bar for from 5 minutes to 12 hours.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process of ~~claim 1~~claim 2, wherein the component A) ~~used is~~ comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of cyclohexyl isocyanate, isophorone diisocyanate (IPDI), hexamethylene diisocyanate (HDI), 2-methylpentane diisocyanate (MPDI), 2,2,4-trimethylhexamethylene diisocyanate/2,4,4-trimethylhexamethylene diisocyanate (TMDI), norbornane diisocyanate (NBDI), methylenediphenyl diisocyanate (MDI), diisocyanatomethylbenzene~~, especially the 2,4- and the 2,6-isomers, and technical grade mixtures of both isomers~~ (TDI), tetramethylxylylene diisocyanate (TMXDI) and dicyclohexylmethyl diisocyanate (H12MDI).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 3, wherein the component A) comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of IPDI, HDI ~~and/or~~ and H12MDI ~~are used~~.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process of ~~claim 1~~claim 2, wherein the ~~isocyanates used are~~ component A) comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of isocyanurates, uretdiones, allophanates ~~and/or~~ and biurets.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process of ~~claim 1~~claim 2, wherein the component B2) ~~used~~ comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of inorganic compounds having water of crystallization, molecular sieves, ion exchangers~~,~~ and hydrous polymer gels~~, for example superabsorbents~~.

Claims 7-8 (Cancelled).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The process of ~~claim 1~~claim 2, wherein ~~cocatalysts~~ the cocatalyst C) ~~based on~~ comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of tin, zinc and/~~or~~ bismuth ~~are used~~.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 9, wherein the cocatalyst C) comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of tin(II) chloride, dibutyltin dilaurate, zinc octoate, zinc acetylacetonate and bismuth neododecanoate ~~are used alone or in mixtures~~.